

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: OR128-02-10

BLM Coos Bay District Office

Lease/Serial/Case file No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Temporary Road Closure of BLM Road 29-11-24.0 to motorized public access (Euphoria Ridge).

Location of Proposed Action: T. 29 S., R. 11 W., Sections 23 and 24, W.M. Coos County. OR.

Applicant (if any): N/A

Conformance With Applicable Land Use Plan: This proposed action is subject to the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995); which is in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its Record of Decision (Interagency, 1994). This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan's terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1601.5.

Remarks: The Proposed Action is in compliance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995)(RMP); hereby incorporated by reference. The RMP has been determined to be consistent with the standards and guidelines for healthy lands at the land use plan scale and associated timelines.

Need for Proposed Action: This road closure to motorized public access is intended to prevent further degradation of culturally- and environmentally-sensitive meadow areas within the adjacent Coquille Forest. The installed gate will prevent unauthorized entry of four-wheel vehicles onto meadow areas while continuing to allow for pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle use of the complete Euphoria Ridge trail, including meadow areas.

Description of Proposed Action: Temporary road closure for an indefinite period, beginning March 1, 2002.

Environmental Impacts to Critical Elements of the Human Environment:

Critical Elements	Affected		Critical Elements	Affected	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality	—	<u>X</u>	T & E Species	—	<u>X</u>
ACECs	—	<u>X</u>	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	—	<u>X</u>
Cultural Resources	—	<u>X</u>	Water Quality	—	<u>X</u>
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	—	<u>X</u>	Wetlands/Riparian Zones/ACS	—	<u>X</u>
Floodplains	—	<u>X</u>	Wild & Scenic Rivers	—	<u>X</u>
Unresolved conflicts	—	<u>X</u>	Wilderness	—	<u>X</u>
Noxious Weed Management	—	<u>X</u>	Port Orford Cedar Management	—	<u>X</u>
Environmental Justice Concerns	—	<u>X</u>	Energy production, transmission	—	<u>X</u>
Native American religious concerns and/or Indian trust resources	<u>X*</u>	—			

* Preventing physical degradation of meadow areas will provide benefits to the Coquille Indian Tribe in their spiritual and ceremonial use of this portion of their Tribal Forest.

Description of Impacts to Specific Elements of the Human Environment: Road closure will have an impact on the stability of fragile meadow soils and vegetation.

No other impacts have been identified.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts: Impacts created by this road closure should be limited to the inability of hunters to drive the full length of BLM Road 29-11-24.0. However, pedestrian access is not restricted, so hunters still can enter the area on foot.

Persons/Agencies Consulted: The Coquille Indian Tribe officially requested this road closure for the reasons specified above. The following BLM specialists were consulted:

<u>Preparers</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Speciality</u>
Stephan Samuels	_____	_____	District Archaeologist, District Native American Coordinator, Area Environmental Justice Coordinator, Team Lead
Nancy Brian	_____	_____	District Botanist
Jim Kowalick	_____	_____	Port Orford Cedar Coordinator
Stephen Langenstein	_____	_____	Wildlife Biologist, S&M Mollusk Coordinator
Nikki Moore	_____	_____	Fisheries Biologist
Bob Raper	_____	_____	District Noxious Weed Coordinator
Tim Votaw	_____	_____	Hazardous Material Specialist

Date: January 29, 2002.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD.

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required.. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project as described in the Description of the Proposed Action section with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures:

Decision recommended by: NRSA: _____ Date: _____

NRSA: _____ Date: _____

NRSA: _____ Date: _____

Decision Approved by: Myrtlewood Field Manager: _____ Date: _____



